

Clinton MUNC II 2025



Committee: The French Revolution

Committee Type: Joint Crisis

Topic: The Third Estate

Date: April 26th, 2025

Chair: Nicholas Belida

Table of Contents

Conference Policies.....	3
Meet Your Chair and Director.....	5
Mastering Crisis Committees.....	7
Overview of Committee.....	8
Topic Background.....	9
Current situation:.....	11
The Third Estate:.....	12
Delegate Positions.....	13
Questions to Consider.....	23
References.....	24

Conference Policies:

The Clinton School Model United Nations Conference (ClintonMUN) is dedicated to fostering meaningful debate and providing students with the chance to explore a wide range of global topics while promoting collaboration and teamwork among delegates! While we encourage passionate discussion, we emphasize the importance of maintaining respectful and considerate language, especially during debates. We trust that all participants will contribute to a positive and inclusive environment. The following policies and expectations are in place to ensure every delegate has an enriching experience at ClintonMUN.

Attire: Delegates are required to adhere to formal Western business attire for the duration of ClintonMUN. Exceptions may be made in crisis committees for character-specific costumes, but prior approval from the committee chair is necessary.

Expectations in Committee: Delegates are expected to uphold decorum, respect, and professionalism during all committee sessions. While representing your assigned country's stance, please communicate your points respectfully. Please follow the expectation below in order to help us create an inclusive and engaging environment for all delegates:

- Only one delegate may speak at a time during moderated caucuses. To speak, raise your placard and wait for recognition by the chair.
- Outside of Model UN Personal attacks will not be tolerated. In cases where such behavior occurs you may be asked to leave the committee/conference.
- Please Maintain focus and respect when others are speaking
- Do not speak without proper recognition and limit talking over others
- Please limit any and all unauthorized use of cell phones
- Do not use technology or any forms of AI when not permitted
- there is no toleration of any form of harassment, whether verbal, physical and will result in removal from the committee/conference.

Technology: Crisis committees operate under a strict no-technology policy—laptops and cell phones are not permitted during sessions. General Assembly (GA) committees allow limited use of technology strictly for resolution drafting during unmoderated caucuses and approved breaks. Laptops must remain closed during moderated caucuses and while fellow delegates are delivering speeches.

Awards: Delegates will be evaluated by committee chairs and directors and will consider:

- Quality and clarity of speeches
- Collaboration and leadership
- Contributions to drafting and presenting resolutions or directives
- Creativity!

Meet Your Chair and Director

Bonjour delegates!

My name is Nicholas and I am a senior at Clinton. I am so excited to be your chair for the Rebels in this French Revolution JCC. I have been in Model UN since I transferred into Clinton my sophomore year, and it has since grown to be one of my favorite clubs. Model UN has served as an amazing outlet to practice my public speaking and on-the-spot problem solving, and as I take on college next year, I definitely will be employing my lessons into real life situations! Outside of MUN, I am the President of my school's Key Club and Peer Leader Program, and I'm always looking for ways to better my community.

If this is your first time doing a crisis, or even your first conference ever, do not worry, me and my committee director will be working together to uphold parliamentary procedures so the committee runs as smoothly as possible. Don't feel scared to interject with any questions you might have, we are always here to help. My piece of advice though is to be loud and don't be scared to get a little scrappy in committee! Looking forward to meeting you all and seeing the debate that goes down. Best of luck to all of you.

Nicholas Belida

nicholasbelida1@gmail.com

Salut Delegates!

My name is Tenzin Chime and I am a senior at Clinton! I'm very excited to be your committee director, as this will be my first time directing! Model UN is one of my favorite clubs because of the many fond memories I've made. Some of my favorite memories include being a part of Clinton MUN's first conference, and attending the GCMUN delegate dance last year! I joined Model UN in my Junior year, and I have had the ability to work on so many different skills. As your director, I will be working closely with Nicholas to uphold parliamentary procedures and make the flow of debate as fun and smooth. I look forward to seeing what you will present!

Outside of MUN, I am a member of Clinton's Varsity Basketball Team as well as an active member of the Tibetan community. Because of this, public speaking has always been something of interest to me, and MUN has really helped me work on those skills and apply them beyond the realm of debate. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Clinton MUNC 2025!

Tenzin Chime

tenzinlchime@gmail.com

Mastering Crisis Committees

A crisis note is a private communication used in Model United Nations crisis committees, where delegates write notes to the crisis committee backrooms outlining their desired actions, plans, or requests within the simulated crisis scenario, allowing them to influence the narrative without directly stating their intentions in the main committee room; essentially, it's a way to secretly strategize and take covert actions within the committee.

A press release is a short, official statement that a committee uses to share important information with the public or other committees during a conference. It's written in a formal but simple way and is meant to inform people about major decisions, events, or updates happening in the committee. Since they're public, delegates need to be careful about what they say. Writing a clear and strong press release is a great way to try and control the committee's actions.

A crisis directive is a quick and simple way for delegates in crisis committees to take action during fast-paced situations. Unlike regular resolutions that take a lot of time and debate, crisis directives let delegates respond to urgent events right away. These directives are usually short and to the point, focusing on specific actions like sending in troops, creating alliances, or handling emergencies. Delegates can work alone or with others to write them, and once the committee approves the directive, the effects are immediately added to the crisis. This makes the committee more intense and exciting, pushing delegates to think fast, be creative, and adapt to constant changes.

A round robin is a quick way for each delegate in a committee to speak one after another without interruptions. If this motion is passed, then every delegate will have the chance to speak and participate, usually going in a circle until everyone has done so. It's usually used to gather everyone's opinions, brainstorm ideas, or plan the next steps during a crisis. Round robins help keep the discussion organized and make sure every delegate gets a chance to share their thoughts.

A crisis update is a news-style report given by the crisis staff to inform the committee about new events or changes in the scenario. These updates can include breaking news, conflicts, or unexpected twists that delegates must react to. They keep the crisis dynamic and push the committee to adapt their strategies.

Overview of the Committee



It is the early 1790s, and growing tensions between the aristocracy and the proletariat and bourgeois are coming to a head. King Louis XVI's forced acceptance of the National Assembly closed the Ancien Régime and drove a wedge between the antagonized royal family and the greater public. The king originally agreed to rule a constitutional monarchy in order to placate the rebels, but after seeing the success of the new system, tries to flee Paris with his family. Meanwhile, revolution in Haiti adds another layer of complexity to the tumult overseas in France. So much chaos, and so little guidance—what will the National Assembly decide to do with the king and his family? What happens to the working people of France while their government decide how to go forward?

Background

This history of how France spiraled into political unrest, immense amounts of debt, and the creation of a new government, is a long one, but it begins in the 5th century C.E. when Clovis I defeated the Roman general Syagrius and established the Catholic Frankish kingdom. In the following centuries,



France underwent a period of decentralization, all the while existing as a monarchy. By the 15th century, what is known as the Ancien Régime began, during which France's population flourished into a grand 13 million, making it one of the largest countries in all of Europe at the time. By the 1600s, France was colonizing territories in the New World and in the African continent, including modern countries like Algeria and states like Louisiana.



However, though France seemed to be conquering the world and lavishing in its riches, quite the opposite was happening from within the nation.

With the creation of Versailles in 1623 by Louis XIII and decades of violence like the War of the Spanish Succession and the Seven Years' War,

France was in ever growing debt. France's financial dilemma was only exacerbated by the inefficient taxation system that targeted mostly, and arguably only, the Third Estate while essentially exempting the First and Second estates, composed exclusively of French nobility and the clergy.

In the Palace of Versailles, August 23 of 1754 marked the birth of Louis XVI—the last king of France before the French Revolution. He was the grandson of Louis XV and became the heir to the throne at age 11 after his father, Louis, Dauphin of France, passed away in 1765. In 1770, Louis XVI would marry Marie Antoinette, the daughter of Holy Roman Emperor Francis I and Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, in order to strengthen the political alliance between France and Austria. Despite the promise of unity their

marriage was told to bring, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette's reign became infamous for their unruly spending. While 80% of the population suffered from famine, disease, and vast poverty, Louis XVI poured vast amounts of money into elaborate parties and the maintenance of Versailles. His disregard for the common folk in the third estate fueled widespread anger and resentment.



Unlike the First and Second Estates, the Third Estate was composed of peasants, urban workers, farmers, and the common people and bore the brunt of the kingdom's financial burdens. Furthermore, unlike the others, the Third estate was heavily taxed. However, it was only after being on the brink of bankruptcy after

funding the American Revolution when Louis XVI began to understand the dire consequences of his vices. Unable to find solutions to the country's financial challenges, Louis XVI called a meeting of the Estates General. The misinformation surrounding this pivotal moment became a heated point of contention during the French Revolution. Each estate was given one vote, which was inherently unfair, as the First and Second Estates, composed of around 2% of the population—nobles and clergy—held the same voting power as the Third Estate, which made up about 80% of the population. And thus, filled with rage, disappointment, and fear for the future of France, the Third Estate decided to break away in 1789, forming the National Assembly and demanding constitutional reforms under the rallying cry of “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity!”

Current Situation



The year is 1791, and the winds of revolution have been sweeping across France for two years. What began with calls for reform during the Estates General in 1789 has come to a head as revolutionary factions grow bolder and the monarchy's authority wanes. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, adopted in 1789, has challenged the Ancien Régime's very foundations, including the privileges and protections of the aristocracy. Now, with King Louis XVI under house arrest following his failed escape to Varennes, the nobility finds itself in a precarious position.

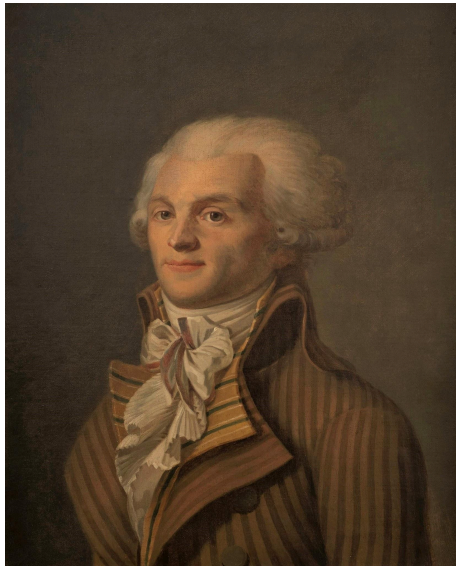
Amid the turmoil, members of the aristocracy secretly convene to strategize their survival. Factions have emerged within the first and second estates: some advocate for counter-revolutionary action, others propose negotiating with the revolutionaries to preserve some semblance of privilege, while others consider fleeing France entirely

The Third Estate:

The Third Estate consisted of everyone in French society who was not part of the First or Second Estate. 97% of the population was a part of the Third Estate made up of Urban workers, Peasants, and the Bourgeoisie (middle class). Even though it was the biggest Estate, they had the heaviest tax burden and little political power under the Ancien Régime. Before the French Revolution, the Third Estate faced wide economic hardship due to rising bread prices, stagnant wages, and heavy taxes. Enlightened ideas fueled their frustration, leading to demands for representation and reform. In the Estates General of 1789, each estate was given a vote where the Third Estate was consistently outvoted by the privileged Estates. This led to the formation of the National Assembly, where the Third Estate declared itself the true representative of the French people, taking that pivotal step toward revolution. The Third Estate played a critical role in key events such as the Tennis Court Oath, the storming of the Bastille, and the eventual elimination of feudal privileges. This collective frustration made them a powerful force in sparking and sustaining the French Revolution.



Delegate Positions



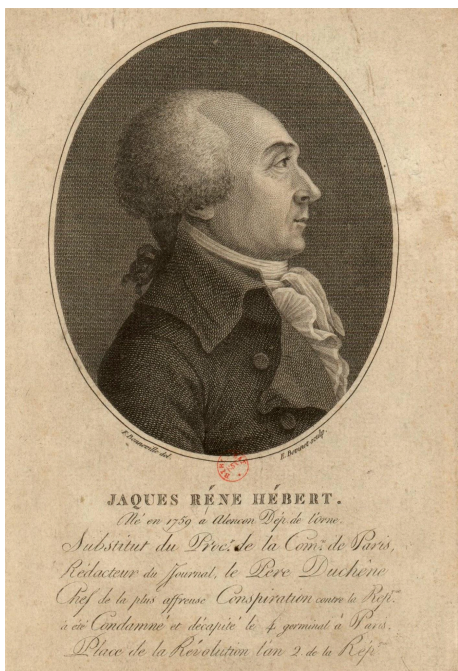
Maximilien Robespierre was one of the most influential figures of the French Revolution, a leading member of the Jacobins, and a key architect of the Reign of Terror. Known as "the Incorruptible," he advocated for radical democracy, virtue, and the complete elimination of enemies of the revolution. As head of the Committee of Public Safety, he wielded immense power over revolutionary policy, directing purges, trials, and executions. His ability to shape law, control public discourse, and enforce revolutionary ideals made him both revered and feared.



Jean-Paul Marat was a radical journalist and outspoken defender of the sans-culottes, using his newspaper, *L'Ami du Peuple*, to spread revolutionary fervor and denounce counter-revolutionaries. His fiery rhetoric incited uprisings, and his calls for violent action made him a champion of the most extreme revolutionary factions. Marat's influence over public opinion and his close ties to the militant working class gave him the ability to direct mass movements and push for relentless purges of perceived enemies of the Republic.



Georges Danton was a charismatic orator and a key leader in the early stages of the Revolution, playing a major role in the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of the First French Republic. As head of the Revolutionary Tribunal, he was responsible for organizing France's defenses and consolidating revolutionary power. However, his more pragmatic approach to governance often put him at odds with the radical Jacobins. His political alliances and influence over revolutionary justice made him a powerful figure capable of negotiating between factions while maintaining control over legal and military matters.



Jacques Hébert was an extreme radical and leader of the Hébertists, known for his aggressive stance on de-Christianization and his fervent support of the sans-culottes. His newspaper, *Le Père Duchesne*, was notorious for its vulgar and incendiary attacks on perceived enemies of the revolution. Hébert's influence extended beyond the press; he played a major role in organizing street protests and violent purges. His radical social and religious policies, as well as his close ties to revolutionary mobs, made him one of the most feared and dangerous figures of the period.



Camille Desmoulins was a passionate writer and close friend of Robespierre and Danton, one of the Revolution's most influential journalists. His speeches and pamphlets, such as *Le Vieux Cordelier*, played a crucial role in rallying public support against the monarchy. Initially a fierce revolutionary, he later advocated for moderation and an end to the Reign of Terror, which led to his downfall. His ability to sway public opinion through his writing and his personal connections to high-ranking revolutionaries made him a key figure in shaping the direction of the Revolution.



The sans-culottes were a group of radical working-class revolutionaries who drove many of the uprisings that defined the French Revolution. Composed of artisans, shopkeepers, and urban laborers, they demanded direct democracy, price controls, and severe punishment for counter-revolutionaries. Their willingness to take to the streets, storm government buildings, and execute violent justice made them a powerful force in shaping revolutionary events. Their alliance with radical leaders gave them an outsized influence on policy, as their support could determine the fate of both individuals and governments.



Gracchus Babeuf was a political activist and early proponent of communism, known for his calls for economic equality and the abolition of private property. His ideas, later known as Babouvism, laid the groundwork for socialist movements. A critic of both the Jacobins and the Directory, he sought to establish a system where wealth was shared equally among citizens. His radical economic views and underground organizing efforts made him a major threat to those in power, and his later attempts to overthrow the government led to his arrest and execution.



Louis Antoine de Saint-Just was a close ally of Robespierre and a leading figure of the Reign of Terror, known for his unwavering dedication to revolutionary ideals. As one of the youngest members of the Committee of Public Safety, he played a crucial role in drafting laws that enabled the mass executions of suspected enemies of the Republic. His cold and ruthless efficiency in implementing policies made him one of the most feared enforcers of the Terror. Despite his youth, his ability to command authority and enforce revolutionary justice made him a central figure in shaping the radical phase of the Revolution.



Philippe-François-Joseph Le Bas was a staunch supporter of Robespierre and a key figure within the Jacobin government, working closely with Saint-Just on military and political matters. His primary role was ensuring revolutionary loyalty within the army, where he was responsible for maintaining discipline and purging suspected counter-revolutionaries. Fiercely loyal to the Jacobin cause, he was one of the few figures who stood by Robespierre until the very end, ultimately choosing to die alongside him rather than face arrest.



Jacques Roux was the leader of the Enragés, a radical priest who championed the grievances of the poor and called for extreme economic reforms. He was one of the most vocal critics of the bourgeois leadership of the Revolution, demanding wealth redistribution, fixed prices on essential goods, and harsher crackdowns on counter-revolutionaries. His fiery speeches and connections to revolutionary mobs made him a dangerous opponent to those in power, and his relentless advocacy for economic justice put him at odds with even the Jacobins.



Pauline Léon was a revolutionary feminist and co-founder of the Society of Revolutionary Republican Women, a leading advocate for women's rights and direct female participation in political struggles. She petitioned for women to be armed and trained to defend the Republic, arguing that they should have an active role in the revolution beyond traditional roles. Her activism helped lay the foundation for future feminist movements, though her radicalism made her a target for suppression as the Revolution progressed.



Olympe de Gouges was a playwright and early feminist, best known for writing the *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen*, which challenged the male-dominated revolutionary leadership. She called for legal equality between men and women, the right for women to participate in government, and the abolition of slavery. Her outspoken nature made her many enemies, and she was eventually executed for her critiques of the Jacobin regime. Despite her tragic fate, her work laid the groundwork for future feminist and human rights movements.



Théroigne de Méricourt was a passionate revolutionary and women's rights advocate who actively participated in key revolutionary events, including the storming of the Bastille. She argued for women's inclusion in political and military affairs and formed women's clubs to promote their engagement. However, her later push for moderation led to her being attacked by radical women's groups, and she was eventually institutionalized. Her story reflects both the potential and perils of radical activism during the Revolution.



Marquis de Lafayette was a French noble and military officer who played a key role in both the American and French Revolutions. Initially a champion of constitutional monarchy, he helped draft the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* and commanded the National Guard. However, his moderate stance and attempts to curb radicalism led to his downfall as the Revolution turned more extreme. His influence lay in his military leadership and early political reforms, though his eventual exile reflected his inability to navigate the revolution's shifting tides.



Jacques-Pierre Brissot was the leader of the Girondins, a moderate republican faction that opposed the radical Jacobins. He was a strong advocate for war against European monarchies, believing it would spread revolutionary ideals. However, his opposition to the Reign of Terror and Robespierre's dictatorship led to his downfall. Brissot's diplomatic influence and his role in shaping early revolutionary policy made him a significant figure, though his commitment to moderation ultimately cost him his life.



Jean-Baptiste Carrier was one of the most brutal enforcers of the Reign of Terror, infamous for his mass executions in Nantes, where thousands were drowned in the Loire River. A fervent Jacobin, he was tasked with suppressing counter-revolutionary uprisings, but his extreme methods shocked even his revolutionary peers. His actions embodied the darkest excesses of revolutionary justice, and he was eventually executed himself as the government sought to distance itself from his atrocities.



Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès was a political theorist and clergyman whose pamphlet *What is the Third Estate?* became one of the most influential texts of the Revolution, arguing that commoners were the true nation of France. He played a key role in the early constitutional debates and later helped orchestrate Napoleon Bonaparte's rise to power. His ability to shape political discourse and navigate revolutionary transitions made him a critical force in both the Republic's foundation and its eventual transformation into a new regime.



Marquis de Condorcet was an Enlightenment philosopher and mathematician who championed human rights, education reform, and women's equality. A moderate supporter of the Revolution, he opposed both monarchy and the radical violence of the Jacobins. His *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind* laid the groundwork for liberal democratic thought. However, his opposition to the Reign of Terror led to his persecution and eventual death in prison. His intellectual legacy endured far beyond the Revolution itself.



Anacharsis Cloots,
der „Apostel des Menschengeschlechts“
Stich von Levachez

Jean-Baptiste Cloots, also known as "Anacharsis Cloots," was a radical revolutionary and staunch advocate for a universal republic. A self-proclaimed "orator of humanity," he envisioned a world government based on revolutionary principles and sought to extend the ideals of liberty beyond France. He was deeply involved in anti-monarchist propaganda and was a vocal supporter of the Jacobins. However, his extreme internationalist vision and unwavering commitment to radicalism ultimately led to his execution during the purges of the Reign of Terror.



Étienne-Jean Delacroix was a prominent French revolutionary, known for his radical views and active participation in the movement. He was deeply involved in the Commune of Paris and was an advocate for the defense of the Republic. His support for the revolutionary ideals and his push for social justice made him a prominent figure in the movement.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER: Third Estate

1. How will you keep loyalists to the monarchy at bay and bring them to justice?
What tactics can be employed?
2. How do we address the food shortages and economic instability?
3. What is our vision for post-revolutionary France?

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